



U.S. Embassy
Ljubljana

**NGO Development Small Grants Program
FY 2011**

**The Embassy of the United States of America
Public Affairs Section**

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The Association of Friends of Youth Velenje
“CARBON FOOTPRINT MEASURING IN SALESKA VALLEY”

(4,000 USD)

The aim of the project was to promote the importance of the carbon footprint among students of elementary schools in Saleska Valley. This project increased awareness among youth about environmental issues, particularly about the role of the carbon footprint and how to reduce it. It motivated young people to become more proactive in the search for solutions to these problems at the school level and in their homes as well. The project resulted in a booklet that presented the outcomes of the environment project and included primary school students from Velenje, Sostanj, and Smartno ob Paki municipalities. The core of the students' project was analyzing a questionnaire about carbon footprints with responses from households in the three municipalities.

Foundation Together
“RAISING AWARENESS ON HUMANITARIAN VALUES IN SLOVENIAN
PRIMARY SCHOOLS” (9,737 USD)

Interactive workshops in five Slovenian primary schools in Murska Sobota, Maribor, Novo Mesto, and Koper were organized in order to discuss global humanitarian issues and development aid. Over 200 students took part in an essay/drawing competition. The essay topic was *Why are We Obligated to Help People in Need in Other Countries* and the drawings tried to show the interconnection of people around the world. The top three essays and drawings won awards and all the students that took part received certificates. The end result was a brochure with the major facts about humanitarian aid and solidarity.

LAZ Society

“I CARE FOR THE WATER” (14,965 USD)

“I Care for the Water” was a year long project which included taking an inventory of wells, sampling and analyzing water, workshops for inhabitants on water treatment and maintenance of wells, and working meetings with local authorities in order to improve the situation. Society Laz organized three workshops to explore water sources, implemented water analysis assessments, and launched a newly established water trail.

Slovene Philanthropy

“REGIONAL YOUTH VOLUNTEER SCHOOL” (13,580 USD)

This project is a continuation of the 2-year program *Voluntary Work of Youth in the Western Balkans as Means of Preparation for Citizenship in a Democratic Society*. The youth school lasted 10 days and included 30 participants and their mentors from six counties (Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovenia). The idea was to build up the capacities of young volunteers from the Western Balkans so they can become initiators and leaders of youth volunteer activities in their home countries. The heart of the project was capacity building: capacity building of volunteers, as well as their mentors, who participated equally in the project in order to be able to spread what they learned.

United Nations Association Slovenia

“PROMOTION OF PEACE CAMPAIGN” (2,500 USD)

The activities in this campaign were aimed at informing and educating the general public, especially youth, about peace and security issues. They reached over 250 persons by organizing movie evenings that featured six movies on international security issues, launching a website on peace-keeping operations, organizing two short-video competitions for youth, and implementing a poster



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campaign throughout the country. The project also included two roundtables on nuclear weapons and nuclear armament and on Slovenian cooperation in international peace-keeping missions.

Ekvilib

“YOUNGSTERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: SAY NO TO DISCRIMINATION”

(5,000 USD)

This project successfully trained 21 youth workers, active in the former Yugoslav countries (BIH, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia) in the field of anti-discrimination. Participants addressed various topics concerning discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation and the role of media, active citizenship, and volunteering in addressing discrimination. Topics touched upon mechanisms for tackling discrimination and enabled the exchange of best practices among the organizations, experts, and students working on this issue. Two public events followed: a movie showing addressing homophobia and a roundtable titled “Challenges and Best Practices for Addressing Discrimination among Young People”. Each participant also received the manual *Youth for Human Rights: Against Discrimination*.

Primus

“MED-ARB” (2,500 USD)

With this project Primus introduced *med-arb*, a combination of mediation and arbitration in pre-judicial procedures with a special focus on civil, contract, family, and labor and inheritance law. The goal of this project was to establish the med-arb system with appropriate standards for training mediators-arbitrators and minimal standards for providing med-arb. This grant enabled a U.S. speaker to attend a 2-day conference where he presented the practice of mediation-arbitration in the United States to the 120 participants.

Umanotera

“LEADERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE” (2,500 USD)

The core of this project was a national carbon footprint conference, which also included presentations on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and best practices from the U.S. public sector. The conference highlighted the Greenhouse Gas Protocol as the international standard. A carbon footprint accounting and reporting reference manual for organizations from different sectors was also presented to over 60 participants from various organizations and sectors.

Roma Go Ahead

“PROMOTION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY” (2,500 USD)

This project addressed issues of tolerance and acceptance of differences. Roma Go Ahead conducted 10 workshops for more than 270 students from primary schools. Each student submitted a drawing and created a slogan to promote awareness and tolerance. At the end, posters were made out of their submissions, which were hung in public places in areas with large Roma populations. As a result of these workshops, many children started to talk with each other and to think about different views on cultural diversity and social inequality. The integration of Roma school children was the focus of discussions among teachers.

Legal Information Center - PIC

“YOUNG+ACTIVE+VOLUNTEER” (5,000 USD)

The overall purpose of the project was to empower young people to exercise their rights and become aware of their responsibilities and opportunities, and to show them how they can and must participate in their societies in order to make a difference. The organization worked to demonstrate for the students the importance of voluntary work, the importance of being active citizens, and the

importance of being aware of their role in the society, even at young age. The activities included recruiting volunteers, preparing training materials, and a 3-day training for law students from three universities on active citizenship. Trained students then implemented 20 seminars for 400 students from high schools and the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana.

Integriteta – Transparency International
“PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS-STRENGTHEN PRIVATE SECTOR
INTEGRITY” (5,000 USD)

The purpose of this project was to strengthen the NGO sector and enable this sector to assist the private sector in preventing corruption, building integrity and accountability, and meeting transparency and ethic standards. The core of the project was a roundtable for private business, NGOs, and other key institutions. This project raised awareness about anti-corruption initiatives and the importance of integrity, transparency, accountability, and ethics in the private sector.

Featured speakers were Erich de la Fuente from U.S.-based EDF Communications; Rok Praprotnik, Deputy President of the Commission for the Prevention of the Corruption; Sonja Smuc from the Manager Association; Andrej Bozic, director of a successful private business; and Simona Habic, President of Integriteta-Transparency International Slovenia.

Voluntariat
“INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING THROUGH PHOTOS AND STORIES”
(3,497 USD)

Within this project, Voluntariat focused on the promotion of international volunteer work through a photo-documentary exhibition that traveled throughout Slovenia. The photographs were taken during 17 international voluntary camps by a volunteer photographer. The photos presented the cultural and social diversity of the participants and their interaction. They also highlighted

environmental and social issues and their significance at the global level. The exhibition was accompanied by a comprehensive leaflet explaining the project.

Spolint

“THE SPORTS MIRROR” (5,000 USD)

The Sports Mirror platform enabled the major institutions of Slovene sports to connect and join forces to tackle issues of transparency, good governance, and the prevention of corruption in sports. It provided a multimedia channel to individuals that care about sports (athletes, parents, and spectators). The web-page www.ogledalo-sporta.si features examples of best practices and interviews with people in sports. It includes a valuable database of articles, interviews, videos, case studies, and blogs related to these issues. The project also included a seminar on integrity in sports organizations targeted at representatives from professional sports groups and the media.

Eko Humanitas

“EDUCATION AND PROMOTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND EFFICIENT ENERGY USE”

(4,550 USD)

The main goal of this project was to promote and stimulate the use of renewable resources, to provide knowledge and skills on these topics, and to raise environmental awareness.

The project’s activities included:

- Workshop on the use of solar energy
- Workshop on building home solar panels
- Excursion for general public – best practices of using renewable energy
- “Eco Days” for two primary schools and a youth center

Legebitra
“ON THE EDGE”
(5,000 USD)

The project consists of the following activities:

1. Approximately 140 human rights education workshops (10 per month);
2. Regular or irregular/prearranged meetings at youth centers, students clubs, and secondary schools (totaling 1,260 participants);
3. 10 discussions with several guests (about different aspects of active citizenship, social exclusion, human rights and liberties, equality, equal rights and opportunities). 10 participants per discussion or a total of 100 participants;
4. 5 roundtables on different aspects of active citizenship, social exclusion, human rights and liberties, equality, equal rights and opportunities;
5. 6 organized visits to important institutions connected with human rights, including: U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana, the Slovene parliament, the prison in Dob, commercial television station POP TV, the Museum of Contemporary History in Ljubljana, the concentration camp Rižarna in Trieste). Totaling 54 participants;
6. 2 trainings for leaders: trainings for young volunteers willing to perform human rights workshops in youth centers and schools throughout Slovenia, as well as willing to reproduce and disseminate important messages and knowhow from the project.

KID Pina
“YOUTH VOTE” (3,500 USD)

“Youth Vote” is an international youth project focused on youth engagement in civil society and the promotion of civic involvement. The project focuses on trust in the system and a belief that individual efforts can make a difference. The program also used multimedia to open a space for youth. Two secondary schools



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were selected (one from Slovenia and one from Italy with Slovenian students) where over 40 students took part in writing/filming/editing workshops. They then filmed a cross-border bilingual movie that will be used as a teaching material for high schools (the DVD was sent to all Slovenian high schools). The students also created an exhibition on the interpretation of the Constitution, which will be displayed in Slovenian public libraries.

All activities targeted the following goals:

- To establish an environment for youth in Koper that enabled the exploration, expression, and reflection on youth participation,
- To encourage debate between young people about the mechanisms of representative democracy,
- To encourage discussion between youth and local decision-makers about the importance of active participation in a democratic system.

Zavod PIP

“IMPROVING FUNCTIONAL LITERACY OF ROMA MINORITY IN POMURJE”

(3,500 USD)

Members of the Roma ethnic minority received various forms of assistance aimed at improving their functional literacy. Consultants provided help answering specific situations, describing the options, and providing additional explanations to assist in understanding the individual proceedings. Zavod PIP guided them through the proceedings. They also provided pro-bono legal advice and aid. As a result of these activities Zavod PIP introduced a mobile office in the Lendava municipality (the region with the largest Roma population) where they will continue their work.

IRD Global

“YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAM” (5,000 USD)

The goal of this project was to promote active civic participation among young people in international and humanitarian assistance, to increase their job opportunities in the NGO sector, and to provide a venue for their leadership and career skills development. More than 30 students attended lectures about development cooperation and some of them worked in internships in monitoring with Slovenian NGOs focused on humanitarian aid. The U.S. Embassy grant enabled a U.S. expert on humanitarian intervention to take part in a 3-day seminar.

Umanotera

“SLOVENIAN AVAAZ” (5,000 USD)

The project’s purpose was to empower Slovenian civil society to practice participatory democracy and to demonstrate that active civil society can be a powerful player in the decision-making process at the national level. Umanotera established a platform www.tretjiclen.si and launched web-based campaigns. This tool has reached over 7,000 individuals and is becoming an increasingly recognizable tool for active citizenship. The project is based on an American project, “The World in Action” (www.avaaz.org).

Blue River

“OUT OF FORTY STUDENT CAMP” (2,760 USD)

In the *Out of 40 Student Camp*, Blue River organized a one week research and development (R&D) camp for students from Slovenia and some of the others South-Eastern European countries (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia). The participants gained knowledge and experience in R&D work and entrepreneurship. The case study for their work was the development of software to assist the disabled in everyday activities. Participants learned how to conduct user analysis, prepare software requirement specifications, and conceptualize a product.

Papilot

“HOME AT HEART” (5,000 USD)

“Home at Heart” was a project implemented through a partnership of Zavod Papilot and Foundation “TOGETHER,” which addressed inter-ethnic dialogue and cultural exchange between Albanian youth from Kosovo and Slovenian youth in Novo Mesto. The activities for young people included a language and cultural course for the Albanian youth, a roundtable for experts and the public on the topic of ethnic minorities, an essay and drawing contest in local primary schools for the Albanian and Slovenian youth, and a final event for project participants and public.

Institute Papilot and Foundation “TOGETHER” organized activities with the following goals:

- To enable introductory courses in their language and culture for the Albanian youth in Novo Mesto with the help of a teacher from Kosovo;
- To raise awareness about migration, the situation of local communities, and the challenges they are facing in their daily life by organizing the roundtable;
- To promote tolerance, inter-ethnic dialogue, and cultural exchange by organizing essay and drawing contest in primary schools.

Mission S

“THE POWER OF ROMA YOUTH” (1,800 USD)

The overall purpose of this project was to improve the position of the young Roma population (especially Roma girls) with an emphasis on education and the labor market. A series of workshops were organized for over 60 Roma youth to provide training in new social media for the promotion and preservation of Roma



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culture and heritage. Mission S also prepared a photo exhibition that attracted over 500 visitors.

Zavod Nefiks

“MAKE FRIDAY YOUR JOB DAY” (5,000 USD)

Enterprising Friday is an innovative project that connects two sides – employers and young people. Young people had the unique opportunity to learn about work processes and to develop a social network, which is particularly important for socially excluded young people. Three major events were organized. Within Enterprising Fridays, over 100 students paid visits to American enterprises in order to learn about enterprising work processes and to develop a social and professional network by connecting with potential employers. This project also included individual counseling, chat room discussions for interested students, and working meetings with representatives from the respective ministries and public institutions on the outcome of the project and potential future recognition of the program by the educational system.

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